

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Published Since 1877

<b>K</b>	EYS on which fingers play
<b>E</b>	NCOURAGEMENT in Church Music
<b>Y</b>	OUTH first through twelfth grade
<b>B</b>	ELIEVING the values of participation in Church Music
<b>O</b>	BEYING the Scripture: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed"
<b>A</b>	LLOWING God to be a guide and strength
<b>R</b>	EJOICING through accomplishment
<b>D</b>	EVELOPING of God-given talents
<b>F</b>	ELLOWSHIP with others
<b>E</b>	NCOURAGEMENT received from festival leaders, group leaders, and judges
<b>S</b>	ATISFACTION of knowing that prayer + practice = successful presentation
<b>T</b>	RAINING for witnessing through music at the keyboard
<b>I</b>	NVOLVEMENT in music for worship
<b>V</b>	ALUE of a commitment
<b>A</b>	TTAINING higher goals
<b>L</b>	OVING the Lord
<b>S</b>	HARING the Song of Jesus

## Keyboard festivals promote love of music among state's youths

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Wyndy South understands the power of encouragement.

"I've been a pianist for 30 years, and I couldn't have done it without the love and support of people in the church," she said.

That's why South believes so deeply in the Mississippi Baptist Keyboard Festivals, held every January in a number of locations across the state to encourage young people in their piano and organ studies. She has directed one of the area festivals for the past two years.

First-year piano student Annalee Uptain, 8, of Clinton, participated in her first keyboard festival Jan. 27 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. She is the daughter of James and Wanda Uptain, members of First Church, Clinton.

"I can't say how good the keyboard festival was for Annalee. Being with people her age was a real boost, and I can tell this has helped her confidence. I think the exposure to Christian music is good," said her mother, Wanda.

"Before the keyboard festivals, we had to tell her to 'practice, practice, practice,' but I've noticed her practice time has really picked up since the festival.

"We want her to continue to play the piano, and the keyboard festival has really encouraged her," Wanda said.

L. Graham Smith is director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which sponsors the festivals.

"Our keyboard festivals were conceived to recognize the musical talent of our youth and encourage

the stewardship of this gift through our churches.

"This heritage continued in our 1996 keyboard festivals, where almost 1,300 young people from across our state were given the opportunity to celebrate their gift of music from the Lord and receive positive support and constructive suggestions from around 200 judges," he said.

Smith commended Dot Pray, keyboard consultant in the Church Music Department, who has spent the past 20 years organizing and promoting the festivals in Mississippi.

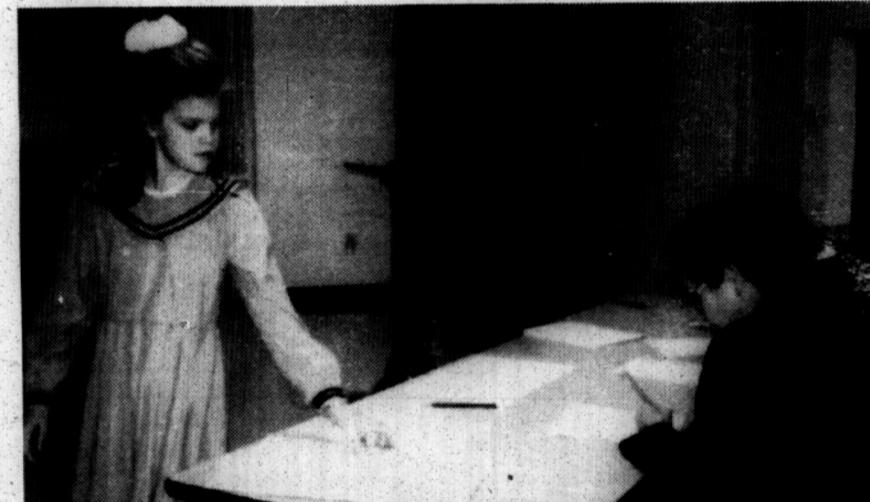
"Her commitment, along with the

festival leaders, judges, recorders, runners, and host churches, makes this ministry possible," he said.

Keyboard students in grades one through 12 are eligible for the area festivals. Students select arrangements from **The Baptist Hymnal**.

The next round of area keyboard festivals is being planned for Jan. 23-25, 1997. Locations will be announced later.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Annalee Uptain, 8-year-old daughter of James and Wanda Uptain of Clinton, retrieves her sheet music from judges Grace Millard of Brandon and Mildred Crawford of Jackson after her piano performance Jan. 27 at the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Keyboard Festival at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. J.C. Cooper (at podium) of Pearl introduced each participant. Nearly 1,300 young people were involved in the 12 area keyboard festivals, conducted Jan. 25-27 at churches across Mississippi. The Uptains are members of First Church, Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## American Family Radio making big (air)waves

Tupelo-based American Family Radio (AFR) closed out 1995 on a high note, and 1996 is already shaping up to be a record-setter. The non-commercial Christian radio network, affiliated with the American Family Association (AFA) in Tupelo, put seven new stations on the air in November 1995. That brings to 109 the total number of stations on the network, representing 26 states and northern Mexico. AFR plans to add at least four more stations in 1996, along with a 100,000-watt "super station" on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that will reach more than one million potential listeners. In addition, the network recently moved into a new 7,200-square foot facility at AFA's headquarters, nearly quadrupling their work space and allowing for expanded production and technical capabilities. AFR has also contracted for a second satellite channel, which will allow special programming and live broadcasts in addition to the daily programming transmitted over the primary satellite uplink. Only Texas has more stations on the network than Mississippi, and the building momentum since the first AFR station went on the air in February 1993 dazzles those who began the network. "We thank God and our AFR supporters for making it possible to put these new stations on the air. It is exciting to watch how God is using and blessing American Family Radio," said AFA President Don Wildmon of Tupelo.

## American Family Radio

### Mississippi stations

Brookhaven	FM	90.5
Central Mississippi	FM	92.5
Columbus	FM	89.3
Delta Area	FM	98.3
Forest	FM	92.5
Hattiesburg	FM	105.3
Jackson	FM	92.5
McComb	FM	90.5
Meridian	FM	92.5
Natchez	FM	91.1
Oxford	FM	101.3
Starkville	FM	88.9
Tupelo	FM	88.3
Vicksburg	FM	93.3
West Point	FM	96.9

## Looking Back...

### 10 years ago

Bolivar County Baptists hold a Bold Missions Awareness conference and banquet to launch their efforts to sponsor a team planning to participate in a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board evangelistic crusade in Argentina.

### 20 years ago

Retired Baptist student worker Chester Swor of Clinton will share the podium with U.S. President Gerald Ford at the 119th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention in June at Scope Convention Center in Norfolk, Va.

### 50 years ago

Stanley Robinson, Mississippi College football coach and athletic director for 18 years, returns to the Clinton campus to rebuild the college's football program that was disbanded shortly after the beginning of World War II.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

## Calvinism &amp; Southern Baptists

Calvinism, sometimes called the "Doctrine of Grace," seems to wax and wane in most generations. Its author John Calvin, 1509-1564, was a great theologian of his day and set out to mend the errors of Popery. His writings have influenced many people since then.

Now there are hyper-Calvinists, low-grade Calvinists, and no-grade Calvinists. The main points of Calvinism are set forth in five basic statements having to do with divine election, limited atonement, nature of repentance and faith, irresistible grace, and perseverance in grace.

Calvinism was due a revival, according to Pastor Thomas Ascol of Cape Coral, Fla. This "revival" resulted in the publication of **The Founder's Journal**, boasting such backers as R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and dozens of prominent pastors.

Free books were sent to pastors on the grace of Calvinism, and suddenly the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was caught up in a sandstorm that obscured about as much as it damaged.

**The Baptist Record** carried an article by theologian Frank Stagg of Diamondhead, and a later article by Mohler.

## Guest Opinion...

## Who will fill their shoes?

By Greg Potts

Country music artist George Jones sings a song entitled "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes?" In the song, Jones lists several well-known country music artists who are now dead. Jones laments the fact that they are gone forever, and questions who will fill their shoes.

The same question could be asked among Southern Baptists. Recently, our denomination was saddened by the loss of Herschel Hobbs, long-time denominational statesman, author, and theologian. Hobbs made an indelible impression on Southern Baptist life with his role in the preparation of the 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message." In 1987, when our convention formed the Peace Committee, Hobbs was the elder statesman who helped that committee do its work. His many books will ensure him a continuing legacy in Southern Baptist life.

I was fortunate to have acquired from a former pastor numerous commentaries written by Hobbs on various New Testament books. Since graduation from seminary, I have frequently found myself read-

James Leo Garrett of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth asked if Southern Baptists should adopt the Synod of Dort (1618-19) which magnified the "sovereign, free exercise of God's good pleasure in relation to humanity." Garrett declared the SBC statement "The Baptist Faith and Message" did not adopt Calvin's five points except the one concerning perseverance in grace.

Meanwhile the SBC Calvinist group emphasized that Calvinism is not anti-missionary, does not destroy the responsibility of man, and does not make God unjust.

The late Herschel H. Hobbs, former Oklahoma pastor and SBC president, wrote a paper on "God's Sovereignty, Man's Free Will," and urged Baptists not to go back to the 16th century but to the first century. He labeled the hyper-Calvinists as anti-missionary, and said that Southern Baptists have experienced their greatest growth since 1900 when this yoke was broken.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in Memphis, then informed the Calvinists that he could not go along with them. Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla., called Calvinism an empty argument and

said it is possible to be "educated beyond one's own intelligence."

David Miller, Arkansas evangelist, said Jerry Vines was wrong and that he takes pride in being a Calvinist. Pastor Jim Glover, across town from Miller, said, "Neo-Calvinism is doing a great injustice within the SBC" and that Calvinism should "remain in the Presbyterian church from whence it originated."

Molly Marshall, ousted last year from Southern Seminary, called Calvinist theology, "irrelevant, obscurantism, and distracting."

Most everyone else in SBC theology circles has made some statement about it.

Most preachers have friends on both sides and find it painful to hurt a friend. When the dust settles, if ever, we will pretty much be in our same positions. No doubt we could spend our time more profitably than promoting the doctrines of John Calvin.

Timothy George, head of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., said, "Let us not... become bitter against those who view this matter in a different light, nor treat them in a supercilious manner; rather let us be gentle toward all men."

This is small consolation when you reveal your propensity for sagacious incapacitation. I was on an auto lot and eyed the pickup with an appraisal that Henry Ford would have envied. The salesman approached with a desire to help.

"Is this what you had in mind?" he queried.

"No, not exactly," I spat out in my best Hertz voice. I kicked the tire again to let him know this was

no novice he was dealing with,

and simultaneously sighted down the frame to see if it were straight.

"I really had the F-100 in mind," I said.

nal principles as well as Hobbs' generation?

Second, they were able to work together. When you examine their lives and ministries, it is obvious Criswell and Hobbs came from two different directions. Criswell has unquestionably been a leader in the conservative resurgence in our Convention. Hobbs remained in the center. Prior to his death, Hobbs even said he felt an error in the application of the Peace Committee report helped to create the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Yet, Hobbs asked that Criswell preach his funeral! What a marvelous testimony to the spirit of cooperation.

Third, success was found in service. As I have talked with leaders and older ministers, I have sensed that many never dreamed they would one day pastor prestigious congregations, or serve in strategic denominational positions. They were called to serve the Lord —

they did not seem driven by ego. Each one seemed to have been elevated to his position because he was an humble servant whom the Lord chose to bless.

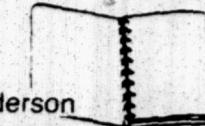
We desperately need that spirit today. There seems to be a restlessness among ministers, striving to out-do a brother in another church. Success is found in serving.

Who's going to fill their shoes? It could be you and me. What an awesome responsibility, to fill the shoes of the legends who have gone before us. Will we fill them by fighting over what size shoes we have been given; by quarreling over the length of the strings; by debating which style is better? I trust not. The world hopes not.

Let's fill those shoes with a theologically sound mind, a cooperative spirit, and a desire to serve our Lord in the purest sense of the word.

**Potts is pastor of First Church, Vancleave.**

Thursday, February 1, 1996



Guy Henderson

"SOMETHING'S LOST—  
BUT I DON'T THINK  
IT'S THE GOSPEL!"

JOE KROKER



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Solitary

"We are all ignorant," said Mark Twain. "It's just about different things."

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"Is this what you had in mind?" he queried.

"No, not exactly," I spat out in my best Hertz voice. I kicked the tire again to let him know this was no novice he was dealing with, and simultaneously sighted down the frame to see if it were straight.

"I really had the F-100 in mind," I said.

He laughed, "Man, they quit making that model 10 years ago; when is the last time you've been shopping for a pickup?"

He was still laughing and telling another salesman as I retreated.

I wish now I had asked him about the "canonical interpretation of Second Isaiah in light of the hermeneutical task," just to see if Twain was right. Let's just see how much theology he knows!

With my luck he would have been a moonlighting seminary professor. Jack Cole said, "Ignorance is a prison in which many live out their time in solitary."

Suddenly I wanted to be by myself. — GH

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# Conventions in 27 states record CP gift highs for 1995

A state-by-state review of record highs in 1995 Cooperative Program (CP) giving follows, in alphabetical order:

— Alabama: \$30,362,878, 4.78% above 1994. Previous high: \$28,977,693, 1994.

— Arkansas: \$16,020,117.15, 1.32% above 1994. Previous high: \$15,811,270.72, 1994.

— California: \$6,061,602, 2.8% above 1994. Previous high: \$5,957,176, 1992.

— Dakotas: \$192,428.81, 4.5% above 1994. Previous high: \$184,039.49, 1994.

— Georgia: \$35,059,996, 4.73% above 1994. Previous high: \$33,475,868, 1994.

— Florida: \$24,958,433, 1.83% above 1994. Previous high: \$24,509,276, 1994.

— Illinois: \$5,302,741, up 4.2% above 1994. Previous high: \$5,090,649, 1994.

— Indiana: \$1,939,646.30, 7.36% above 1994. Previous high: \$1,806,614.62, 1994.

— Iowa: \$297,377, 1% above 1994. Previous high: \$282,321, 1993.

— Kansas-Nebraska: \$1,984,662, 4.4% above 1994. Previous high: \$1,900,380, 1994.

— Louisiana: \$17,441,822, 1% above 1994. Previous high: \$17,264,950, 1994.

— Michigan: \$1,290,175, 1.3% above 1994. Previous high: \$1,273,567, 1994.

— Mississippi: \$23,216,436, 3.3% above 1994. Previous high:

## \$22,474,619, 1994.

— Missouri: \$15,235,692, 1.78% above 1994. Previous high: \$15,016,932, 1992.

— Montana: \$304,162.75, 3% above 1994. Previous high: \$295,488.36, 1994.

— Nevada: \$638,351, 6.38% above 1994. Previous high: \$600,039, 1994.

— New England: \$564,380, 1.69% above 1994. Previous high: \$557,784, 1993.

— New Mexico: \$2,767,235.63, 1.05% above 1994. Previous high: \$2,738,331.28, 1994.

— North Carolina: \$28,507,928, 2.9% above 1994. Previous high: \$27,703,911, 1994.

— Northwest (Washington and Oregon): \$2,009,869, 6.5% above 1994. Previous high: \$1,886,675, 1994.

— Ohio: \$3,688,748, 3% above 1994. Previous high: \$3,581,458, 1994.

— Oklahoma: \$18,034,699, 3.32% above 1994. Previous high: \$17,454,498, 1994.

— Pennsylvania/South Jersey: \$596,867.51, 1.23% above 1994. Previous high: \$593,958.76, 1991.

— South Carolina: \$23,266,437.63, 3.3% above 1994. Previous high: \$22,739,725.96, 1991.

— Tennessee: \$26,893,421, 2.62% above 1994. Previous high: \$26,206,772, 1994. (The state's fiscal year ends Oct. 31.)

— Texas: \$63,705,447, 8.84% above 1994. Previous high:

\$60,551,672, 1990.

— West Virginia: \$740,537.69, 4% above 1994. Previous high: \$711,876.86, 1994.

Because of the crippling East Coast snowstorms, figures have not yet been compiled for the District of Columbia.

In Colorado, CP giving climbed to \$436,077 in '95 from \$408,854 in '94, but an office worker did not have records to indicate whether it

was an all-time high.

In the SBC at large, the convention ended its 1994-95 fiscal year Sept. 30 with a record \$145,739,489 in CP gifts, surpassing by nearly \$3 million the record total for the previous year, or a 2.01% increase.

The CP is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the

Southern Baptist Convention. State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the SBC Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# The Baptist Record

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Published Since 1877

## Churches' giving is reason CP set records across SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — Commitment to the Cooperative Program has yielded celebration in Mississippi, Georgia, and other states where Southern Baptists set records last year.

As reported in the Jan. 11 issue of **The Baptist Record**, Mississippi Baptists set a record in 1995 for gifts to the Cooperative Program (CP), topping the state convention's budget by the highest amount in history.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said the total given in 1995 was \$23,216,436. That is \$609,857, or 2.70%, over the budgeted goal of \$22,606,579.

Mississippi's 1994 CP gifts of \$22,474,619 made the previous high, and 1990's \$504,706 over budget was the previous highest overage.

"Baptists of Georgia have set a record in their commitment to work through the Southern Baptist Convention," said John Yarbrough, president of the Georgia Convention, as he presented a \$5,653,079 check Jan. 18 for SBC national and international missions and ministries funded through the CP.

Georgia Baptists gave \$35,059,996 to fund state convention and SBC causes last year — the first time since 1987 the overall Georgia budget has been met and exceeded. The 1995 total was 4.73% above 1994's total.

In Florida, a total of \$24,958,433.06 was given through Southern Baptists' unified giving channel in 1995, surpassing last year's record giving by 1.83% and the convention's basic budget by \$893,000.

John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Convention, attributed the record giving to "trust and confidence. Our churches believe in what is happening in Florida and the Southern Baptist Convention as we seek to evangelize the lost."

In 1995, the Florida Baptist Convention decreased its percent-

since 1981. The record was a 1.78% increase over 1994 CP giving in the state.

In Tennessee, Baptists gave \$26,893,421 through the CP, surpassing the state goal for the first time since 1984. The record was a 2.62% increase over 1994 and marked the fourth consecutive year of increases in CP giving.

"Each gift from every participating church," noted James Porch, executive director of the Tennessee Convention, "made this record giving possible."

In Nevada, CP giving surpassed the \$613,000 goal by more than \$25,000 and was 6.38% over 1994's total.

In the SBC at large, the convention ended its 1994-95 fiscal year Sept. 30 with a record \$145,739,489 in CP gifts, surpassing by nearly \$3 million the record total for the previous year, or a 2.01% increase.



## BSU retreat at Garaywa

Rossi Francis, pastor of Grace Temple Church, Gulfport, leads a conference entitled, "A Fresh Look at Black Christian Heritage," during the annual Mississippi Baptist Student Union-Retreat Jan. 26-27 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Approximately 250 students attended the retreat, which included other seminars on missions, leadership, peer pressure, and the status of black Christians. Herbie Brisbane, director of the Office of Black Evangelism at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, delivered the meeting's keynote address. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Wildmon's AFA buys Times ad to challenge "trashy" talk shows

TUPELO (BP) — A campaign to fight "trashy" TV talk shows" entered a new phase Jan. 21 with the publication of a full-page advertisement in **The New York Times** Sunday edition.

"SHAME!" said the large headline atop the ad, which was purchased by the American Family Association, based in Tupelo.

"Shame on you trash talk show producers who fill our children's minds with moral rot, on you TV stations which bring their perverse programs into our communities, (and) on you greedy advertisers who sponsor trash talk shows simply to fill your coffers with money," the ad read.

The AFA board of directors voted in October to launch the campaign, which is being guided by Donald E. Wildmon, AFA president and a United Methodist minister.

"The purpose of the ad was to shame them. What we're trying to do is publicly identify these companies and the kind of trash they're sponsoring," Wildmon said. "I know our people are committed to this. They're fed up with it, and I think the majority of Americans are fed up with this trash."

According to Wildmon, AFA staffers and volunteers are monitoring several talk shows, including six mentioned in the ad: Donahue, Geraldo, Jenny Jones, Maury Povich, Ricki Lake, and Sally Jessy Raphael.

The ad directed "shame" toward several advertisers, listed below

with some of their products and subsidiaries:

— American Home Products Corporation: Advil, Robitussin, Dimetapp, and Centrum.

— Grand Metropolitan Inc.: Burger King, Green Giant, Pearle Vision, and Pillsbury.

— Hasbro Inc.: Kenner, Playskool, and Milton Bradley.

— Philip Morris: General Foods international coffees, Post cereals, Maxwell House, and Kraft.

— Remington Products Co.: Remington appliances and shavers.

— Clorox Company: Formula 409, Hidden Valley dressings, and Brita water filtration.

— Procter & Gamble: Cover Girl, Crest, Oil of Olay, Pantene, and Tide.

— Unilever: Calvin Klein, Lipton, Mentadent, and Vaseline.

— Warner-Lambert: Benadryl, Sudafed, Listerine, and Schick.

The AFA advertisement complains of recent talk show themes, such as "fathers who think they're studs," "women who marry their rapists," "teens who have sex for status," and "my daughter is living as a boy."

"We are fed up with your callous and arrogant disregard for the impact your filth is having on our children. We are not going to take it any more. We are fighting back!" the ad said.

The advertisement urges readers to fill out a petition at the bottom of the page and send it to AFA, which plans to share responses with the sponsors of the programs.



**AT RISK** — Children, pregnant mothers, and the elderly are most likely to suffer from a flood-induced famine now ravaging North Korea. The normally isolated communist nation has appealed for outside help and agreed to receive aid from Christian organizations. Southern Baptists will spend \$500,000 to send food in a project designed to feed up to 10,000 schoolchildren, send low-cost rice and ship foodstuffs provided by local Southern Baptist churches and others. The Red Cross warns that 120,000 North Koreans may die before the next grain harvest without immediate action. For more information on how to help, call (405) 357-2155. (BP file photo by Warren Johnson)

## Deadline for MBREA's 50th convention nears

By Joe Armour

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on Feb. 29-March 1 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Jackson.

The deadline to register for convention and all convention activities is Friday, Feb. 9. Anyone who registered earlier for just the convention must also register by the deadline for any convention activities in which he or she is interested.

Contact the Ramada Plaza Hotel directly for lodging reservations at (601) 957-2800 or toll-free (800) 227-5489.

The convention theme is "Religious Education: Reflecting on the Past, Looking at the Present, and Focusing on the Future."

Guest speakers include James Sullivan, Keith Wilkinson, Bill Taylor, Cliff Jenkins, and Ron Lewis.

In addition to conference sessions led by the guest speakers, activities include an Annuity Board update, seventeen exhibits, door prizes, a special session for preschool and children educators, and a banquet.

Optional, extra-cost activities include a golf tournament and a tour of the Palaces of St. Petersburg exhibit in Jackson.

The banquet at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 1, will be a special time, as we recognize past members and officers and reflect upon 50 years of MBREA. I have already heard from two charter members!

Jeff Ingram, MBREA president-elect has been working on a booth of 50 years of MBREA memorabilia — including a copy of the program from the first MBREA convention in 1947.

Cost of the convention is \$25. Cost of the Friday evening banquet is \$14 per person.

Anyone interested in attending should contact David Webb, MBREA secretary-treasurer, at Union Baptist Church, 1716 W. Union Road, Picayune, MS 39466, telephone (601) 798-6470; or Joe Armour, MBREA president, at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 72, Clinton, MS 39060, telephone: (601) 924-6705.

Armour is MBREA president and minister of education at First Church, Clinton.

# Southern Baptists will aid famine-stricken N. Koreans

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — As millions of hungry North Koreans face starvation this winter from flood-induced famine, Southern Baptists will spend \$500,000 now — and perhaps more later — to send food aid.

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist overseas relief and development agency, will use the funds to start a project designed to feed up to 10,000 North Korean schoolchildren for six months, purchase low-cost rice for immediate shipment to North Korea, and ship large containers of foodstuffs provided by local Southern Baptist churches and others.

Disastrous flooding in North Korea this past summer destroyed thousands of homes and buildings and devastated the grain harvest. Even before the flooding, the food situation looked grim; North

Korean harvests reportedly have fallen short of needs for the last several years.

While some nations have disputed the severity of the famine and refused to supply food, a Korean-American who has traveled to North Korea five times since November has seen the suffering.

"I saw people eating soil," reported the Korean-American, who spoke to Baptist Press Jan. 21 on condition of anonymity.

When he visited one small North Korean hospital in December, a doctor told him 100 people die at the facility during a typical six-month period. In the previous six months, the doctor said, 1,420 people had died — mostly children and elderly patients weakened by malnutrition. That afternoon, the visitor saw one more malnourished child die.

The flooding and resulting

severe food shortages have directly affected up to 5 million North Koreans, relief groups report. The Red Cross said Jan. 21 that 120,000 North Koreans may die before the next harvest without immediate, concerted action.

The crisis represents a "huge opportunity" for Southern Baptists and other Christians to help suffering North Koreans in the name of Christ, said Mike Stroope, director of Cooperative Services International.

Only the following bulk items will be accepted for shipping, however: dried beans, white rice, flour, edible corn, powdered milk and eggs, noodles — and blankets to help people survive winter.

A special telephone number, (405) 357-2437, is expected to be in service. Southern Baptists and others can call to learn how to get involved in the relief project.

## U.S. Christians, government urged to defend persecuted believers

WASHINGTON (BP) — American Christians and the United States government need to be sensitized to the plight of persecuted believers worldwide and be motivated to help them, said spokesmen for a diverse group of more than 50 Christian leaders and others who met recently to discuss the problem.

Not only did some of the spokesmen express dissatisfaction with the United States' failure to address the problem, but they admitted their shock at the extent of the persecution and their disgrace at their lack of concern.

"I think all of us were driven by some of the comments to repent at our indifference, our lack of concern, our lack of moral outrage over the scandalous silence of the Christian community towards the persecution of Christians worldwide," said Chuck Colson, president of Prison Fellowship and a well-known evangelical writer.

The participants — who included leaders of various denominations and para-church organizations, as well as representatives of congressional offices — received reports of martyrdom and other forms of persecution in Islamic countries, plus China, Vietnam, North Korea, and Cuba. The various Christian organizations plan to inform their constituents of the problem, to call them to prayer, and to encourage them to influence their government representatives, a spokesman said.

While the meeting did not produce specific recommendations for government action, the National Association of Evangelicals issued a statement Jan. 19 calling on the United States to take the following steps regarding religious persecution:

— "Public acknowledgment of today's widespread and mounting anti-Christian persecution and the

adoption of policies condemning religious persecution whether it results from official policy or from unchecked terrorist activity.

— "Issuance by the State Department's Human Rights Bureau and related government agencies of more carefully researched, more fully documented and less politically edited reports of the facts and circumstances of anti-Christian and other religious persecution.

— "Cessation of the indifferent and occasionally hostile manner in which the Immigration and Naturalization Service often treats the petitions of escapees from anti-Christian persecution.

— "Termination of foreign assistance to countries that fail to take vigorous action to end anti-Christian or other religious persecution, with resumption of assistance to be permitted only after a written finding is made by the president that the countries have taken all reasonable steps to end such persecution, and arrangements are made to ensure that religious persecution is not resumed."

Among examples of persecution cited at the news conference by Keith Roderick, secretary general of the Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights Under Islamization, were:

— In the southern Sudan, raids on Christian villages in which the men are killed and the women and children are taken as slaves;

— In northern Egypt, the killing of Christian professionals and the burning of businesses;

— In Saudi Arabia, where 10% of the population is Christian, the bulldozing by the government of the last ancient church in the country.

Included in the meeting were Chaplain of the Senate Lloyd Oglevie; James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Ministries; Gary Bauer of Family Research Council; Moody Bible Institute President Joseph

Stowell; evangelist/apologist Ravi Zacharias; Lynn Buzzard of the Campbell University School of Law; and Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va.

Other participants included representatives from the General Council of Assemblies of God, the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Church of God, Focus on the Family, the Institute on Religion and Democracy and Christian Legal Society.

## Robertson, minister, dies Jan. 25

O.B. Robertson, 73, of Hattiesburg, died unexpectedly Jan. 25 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Services were held Jan. 28 at Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg.

A native of Greenwood, Robertson was a graduate of Weir High School and was serving as president of its alumni. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

He pastored churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and California, most recently serving at Military Church in Sumrall. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jane Fleck, and two grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife Annette of Hattiesburg; a daughter, Carol Heisler of Fairfax, Va.; four sons, Wayne of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Robert and David, both of Hattiesburg; and Jim of Moorpark, Calif.; his stepmother, Margaret Lou Deal of Springhill, La.; three brothers; 14 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Memorials may be made to the Annise P. McDaniel Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College.

# WMU reduces funding from HMB; turns back \$195,000

TALLADEGA, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will assume the financial responsibility for its work with language groups, relinquishing approximately \$195,000 in revenue from the Home Mission Board (HMB).

WMU's executive board, meeting Jan. 13-17 at Shocco Springs Assembly in Talladega, Ala., approved the recommendation from its finance committee that WMU fulfill a 1993 agreement with the HMB which called for WMU to reduce the funding it received from the HMB by the year 2000.

In 1993, WMU received approximately \$378,000 from the HMB for its work among ethnic and African American congregations. WMU has reduced that amount annually since. The WMU board's latest action assimilates all costs related to the two areas of work.

During his report to the WMU executive board Jan. 15, HMB President Larry Lewis expressed appreciation for the board's action, saying the move would "free up additional money for work on the field."

WMU Executive Director Delanna O'Brien described the board's decision as a "step forward" in WMU's language work, saying it was an acknowledgement of "our responsibility to develop quality programming and materials that meet the needs of Southern Baptists' language congregations."

Today, WMU's work among language groups is facilitated by six employees and includes the publication of magazines in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and basic English, as well as numerous WMU products in those lan-

guages and several other languages. WMU also has ongoing work with the deaf.

In other business, the board:

— approved creation of a consultation committee. The body, made up of state WMU executive directors and WMU executive board members (state WMU presidents), will serve in an advisory role to the WMU executive director and WMU national president on matters affecting WMU as a whole.

The first consultation committee includes three state executive directors — Alberta Gilpin, Missouri; Beverly Miller, Alabama; and Betty Lynn Cadle, Minnesota-Wisconsin — and four executive board members — Janet Lindstrom, Colorado; Wanda Lee, Georgia; Peggy Hicks, Kentucky; and Donna Miller, Illinois.

— approved guidelines for the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship Fund for Acteens. The endowed fund was established in 1994 to support Acteens projects and scholarships.

— approved the 1997-98 WMU Coed Dated Plan and the 1997-98 Associational Dated Plan. The dated plans provide guidelines for development of curriculum (coed plan only), activities, and products.

— approved redesign of the Individual Achievement Plan for Girls in Action, including the name WorldVentures, for implementation in September 1997.

— selected violence as WMU's national social issue for 1998-99.

— endorsed WMU's participation in Reconciliation '97, an international conference promoting reconciliation and unity among Christians. The confer-

ence, sponsored by HMB, will be held Sept. 1-7, 1997, in Birmingham and Coventry, England.

— received an update on "Project HELP: Child Advocacy," WMU's 1996-97 social issue. The board learned that the international aspect of the project will focus on a children's ministry in Taiwan coordinated by missionaries serving with the Foreign Mission Board (FMB). The stateside aspect of the project encourages identifying needs and volunteerism.

Along with business, the executive board heard a variety of staff presentations, along with reports from the presidents and respective staff members of the Brotherhood Commission, HMB, and FMB. Each session of the meeting also featured testimonies from a home or foreign missionary.

Thursday, February 1, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



## Painting benefits endowment

Sam Gore (left), Mississippi College professor of art, presents the first print of a limited edition of lithographs to Bob Hederman, longtime Mississippi College (MC) supporter. The lithograph depicts Provine Chapel on the MC campus. For information about obtaining a print, contact the MC Art Department at (601) 925-3221.

## Southern Baptist presence felt at National Affairs Briefing

MEMPHIS (BP) — It was a mix of God and country, religion and politics. Prominent Southern Baptists were key figures at the National Affairs Briefing (NAB) held Jan. 19-20 at The Pyramid in Memphis. NAB was sponsored by The Roundtable, a nationwide group of conservative organizations, churches, and individuals.

Its purpose: "... to set the agenda for the presidential candidates to discuss the social issues and spiritual values that are shaping our country."

Ed McAtee, a member of Bellevue Church in nearby Cordova, chaired the two-day session. A similar NAB in 1980 was widely credited with helping Ronald Reagan become president. Another NAB was held in Dallas in 1992.

Every candidate for the 1996 election was invited to the Memphis sessions, although President Bill Clinton, himself a Southern Baptist, and three top Republicans, former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, **Forbes** magazine CEO Steve Forbes, and the front-runner U.S. Senator Bob Dole, did not attend. Still, there were plenty of candidates and lots of talk about Christian activism.

Candidates speaking to the conservative evangelical audience were commentator Pat Buchanan, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, former diplomat Alan Keyes of Maryland, Congressman Robert Dornan of California, businessman Charles Collins of Florida, and Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's candidate from Franklin, Tenn.

Adrian Rogers, three-time president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and pastor of Bellevue Church, said America is number one — in homosexuality, radical feminism, divorce, destructive family issues, abortion, the occult, new age religion, crime, and violence.

Richard Land, president of the

SBC Christian Life Commission, used Ephesians 5 to call America to "walk circumspectly." Land said it is a critical moment in U.S. history; there is a need for a "profound moral and spiritual renewal."

Other prominent Southern Baptists on the program included Georgia pastors James Merritt of Snellville and Richard Lee of Atlanta.

Although organizers had hoped to draw 10,000 for the NAB, estimates ranged from 5,000 to 7,500 for the meeting. McAtee said another NAB would be held this year, probably in August in San Diego, Calif.

**A colorful sight at the meeting was the group of 1,300 citizens from Pontotoc County. Arriving in a 200-plus-car caravan, they had driven the 90 miles north to**

**Memphis to enthusiastically display their posters and banners, and to support prayer in public schools. A recent lawsuit filed in the county has resulted in banning morning devotionals over the school intercom.**

The county made national headlines in the school prayer issue when a mother of five children in the school system filed suit in federal court to stop the morning devotionals and elective courses in biblical history. With legal assistance from the American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way, she contends both practices are unconstitutional. Her lawsuit is expected to go to trial in March.

Most of the presidential candidates at the meeting appeared to support the religious conservative agenda.

## Jackson church offers "Church in Change"

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will host a workshop for pastors, church staff members, deacons, and Sunday School leaders on Feb. 12-13.

"Church in Change: A Vision for the Future," will begin at 10 a.m. each day, and end at 8:30 p.m.

The workshop is designed to help church leaders respond to change in shaping the future of their churches. Leaders will be Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth; and Leith Anderson, senior pastor of Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, Minn. Hemphill will lead sessions

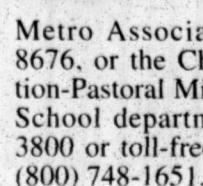
on Feb. 12; Anderson will lead sessions on Feb. 13.

The workshop is jointly sponsored by the Metro (formerly Hinds-Madison) Association, and the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries and Sunday School departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

There is no registration fee. For more information, call Larry Garner at Metro Association, (601) 362-8676, or the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries or Sunday School departments, (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



Anderson



## WCC debate team cleans up

Members of the William Carey College Speech and Debate (Forensics) team recently received several awards at the Hot-N-Spicy Holiday Classic held at Louisiana Tech University. They are (left to right): back row, Shenel Crockett of Jackson, Brian Lucas of Petal, Justin Bunton of Hammond, La., Tom Huebner, director of forensics; second row, Robin McGhee of Jackson, Shannon Clark of Tupelo, Cliff Burris of McComb, Roger Lott of Seminary, John Miller of Columbia; front row, Candice Cockran of Petal, Leanne Bennett of Diamondhead, and Kimberly Dupree of Memphis.

# First Person — A question for Christian parents: Have you paid your child support?

By Bill Taylor

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — Occasionally, a newspaper carries an account of the police department running a "sting operation" where hundreds of people are brought to justice because they have not provided resources for their families.

Often a judge will incarcerate a person for failing to make "child support" payments.

One of the blights on this generation has been the proliferation of parents, especially fathers, who fail to honor the obligations they have to their children. Generally, citizens consider this practice to be despicable; one can hardly be accused of anything worse than being someone who allows a child to go without proper shelter or food.

Today's churches have children who are being denied proper encouragement and opportunities for adequate nourishment.

The lack of "child support" I am talking about is that every Sunday of the year Bible study departments for preschoolers and children are scandalously short of Bible teachers.

Many Sunday School departments operate weekly with as little as 25 to 50% of the leadership required to meet the spiritual needs of these children. Those people who do give of their time and hearts to staff these departments are not able to teach in the manner that best enables children to learn about Jesus and, when the time is right, give their hearts and lives to him.

For many of these workers, keeping order or just tending to the physical needs of the children takes up most of their time.

I think most Christian educators understand that the intense pressures on people in today's society have caused many potential leaders to be so much in need of spiritual help for themselves that they have unwittingly not been available to address these mounting needs of children.

## Correction

**Mount Vernon Church, Lauderdale Association**, paid off \$32,000 in one year on its new educational building and fellowship hall addition, which is valued at \$250,000.

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# LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

The following letters were received in response to the Jan. 11 LifeAnswers question that dealt with whether homosexuals go to heaven. Due to space limitations, I am not able to reprint the entire letters here, just as I am not always able to write everything I'd like to write in response to questions I receive for this column. I appreciate these readers' words; salvation always brings about change, so let's concern ourselves with "working out our salvation."

does save homosexuals; however, there will never be a homosexual in heaven. God has the power to save the vilest of the vile, and I praise him for that!

I agree with you that God meets us where we are through Christ and then deals with our sins. However, the Bible does not just list homosexuality with a "list of other sins," as you stated. The Bible goes much further than that. In Romans 1:21-27, Paul lays plainly God's view of this sin, as does Lev. 18:22 and Lev. 20:13. There is a great deal of difference in a sin that we commit and then turn from in repentance, and a lifestyle choice that is chosen over what God says (1 Thes. 4:3-8). We will never be on this earth what we were created to be. However, at the time of salvation certain changes do take place immediately and lifestyles are the first to change. We no longer desire to be in the same situations or places (1 John 3:4-10). There are many people hurting from this sin and confused by all the different opinions that are being put out. These people need to hear the truth that God loves them and can deliver them. The body of Christ must take a stand... for the truth and not be afraid to speak it in love to a lost and dying world.

The purpose of salvation is to change those who are lost in sin, any sin, whether it is homosexuality or not. God saves those who are saved, so that they can represent him on earth, and that entails a righteousness. Man must confess the Lord with his mouth, but he must believe that God has raised (Jesus Christ) from the dead, and (Romans 10:10 states the) measure of belief it takes to really reach God: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (emphasis mine). The truth of God's Word is the same for homosexuals as it is for any other sinner and when the Lord saves them, he recreates them in a new creature — in Christ — and their lifestyles will conform to that of a child of God. Certainly we cannot limit God and therefore we must preach and teach that God can and

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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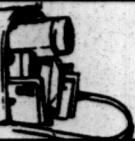
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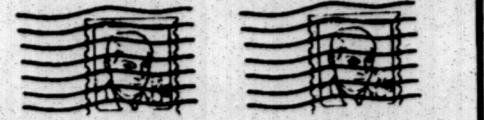
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# Letters to the editor



## Forced terminations

Editor:

I am writing in reference to the Letter to the Editor on Dec. 2, "Painful termination." This letter was written by a friend, Tom Miller. This is an ongoing tragedy that takes place almost weekly in the life of our churches.

I ask you to prayerfully consider that healing needs to take place. In order for these wounds to heal there must be a nurturing

provided. (In our life two churches, First Church of New Augusta and Neely Church, helped to restore my family and my ministry. It took nearly six months for healing to take place in my life before I could return to ministry. Currently I serve a loving and fruitful fellowship in Buckatunna).

Others I have known over the past four years who have been terminated needed healing before they could be restored to their ministry.

Like the others, Miller will need time to heal.

What happens to these men during this time? Who will help them to heal?

The second issue that Miller addressed is his hurting mate. The wife and children of the terminated minister are right in the midst of this conflict and cannot leave this kind of tragic event unscathed, for they, too, have been wounded. Who helps them to heal and who will provide for them when there is no severance

for the pastor? Caring fellowships and supportive friends can help to restore faith and save families through these times of heartbreak.

The Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department is doing all it can within the limitations of its budget. There is so much more that needs to be done. I encourage you to pray fervently for these men, their families, and their ministries.

David L. MacIsaac Sr., pastor  
First Church, Buckatunna



## VISION WORKSHOPS February 1996

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*Vision Workshops are for: pastors, church staff, Sunday School directors, Sunday School teachers, deacons and other key leaders.*

\*Exception, Pearl River Association workshop meets in Carriere, 6:30-8:30 PM

DATE	ASSOCIATION	LOCATION	LEADER	LEADER
8	Pearl River	Pearl River Association Office, Carriere	Weaver McCracken	David Wills
12	George	Southside Baptist Church, Lucedale	Matt Buckles	Doug Broome
12	Gulf Coast	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	Larry Salter	Charles Gordon
12	Lamar	Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	David Wills	Jeff Ingram
12	Marion	First Baptist Church, Columbia	James Fancher	Paul E. Smith
12	Mississippi	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	Richard Brogan	Charles Wesley
12-13	Metro	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	Ken Hemphill	Leith Anderson
13	Greene	First Baptist Church, Leakesville	Matt Buckles	Doug Broome
13	Gulf Coast	First Baptist Church, Wiggins	David Wills	Ron Falvey
13	Jackson	First Baptist Church, Gautier	James Fancher	Charles Gordon
13	Pike	First Baptist Church, Summit	Richard Brogan	Charles Wesley
13	Simpson	Goodwater Baptist Church, Magee	Keith Wilkinson	Mark Lott
15	Lebanon	Carterville Baptist Church, Petal	Matt Buckles	Doug Broome
19	Adams/Union	Washington Baptist Church, Washington	James Fancher	Michael Johnson
19	Lawrence	Bethel Baptist Church, Monticello	David Wills	Ben Atkinson
19	Neshoba	Neshoba Baptist Associational Office, Philadelphia	Matt Buckles	Chuck Pourciau
19	Warren	Trinity Baptist Church, Vicksburg	Weaver McCracken	Mark Bricker
19	Wayne	Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro	Sean Keith	Ron Falvey
20	Covington-Jeff Davis	Covington-Jeff Davis Associational Office, Collins	Sean Keith	Ron Falvey
20	Holmes	First Baptist Church, Lexington	Matt Buckles	Chuck Pourciau
20	Lauderdale	Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian	Weaver McCracken	Michael Johnson
20	Lincoln	Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven	Larry Salter	Bob Buckner
20	Montgomery	First Baptist Church, Winona	Eugene Dobbs	Marcus Peagler
20	Newton	First Baptist Church, Newton	David Wills	Ben Atkinson
20	Noxubee	First Baptist Church, Macon	Richard Brogan	Gus Merritt
20	Rankin	First Baptist Church, Brandon	Keith Wilkinson	Mark Lott
20	Winston	First Baptist Church, Louisville	James Fancher	Jim Young
20	Yazoo	First Baptist Church, Yazoo City	Linda Reeves	Brian Ivey
26	Clay	First Baptist Church, West Point	James Fancher	Marc Howard
26	Marshall	First Baptist Church, Holly Springs	Keith Wilkinson	David Hamilton
26	North Delta	Riverside Baptist Church, Clarksdale	Matt Buckles	Thad Moore
26	Pontotoc	West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc	Weaver McCracken	Rob Boyd
26	Tishomingo	Tishomingo Baptist Church, Tishomingo	David Wills	Ben Atkinson
26	Washington	First Baptist Church, Leland	Richard Brogan	Carl White
26	Scott	Forest Baptist Church, Forest	Linda Reeves	Gus Merritt
27	Lowndes	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	Keith Wilkinson	David Hamilton
27	Northwest	Hernando Baptist Church, Hernando	Richard Brogan	Carl White
27	North Central	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada	Matt Buckles	Thad Moore
27	Itawamba	Dorsey Baptist Church, Mantachie	James Fancher	Jim Young
27	Lafayette	North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford	Weaver McCracken	Rev. Rob Boyd
27	Monroe	First Baptist Church, Amory	David Wills	Ben Atkinson
27	Sunflower	Ruleville Baptist Church, Ruleville	Sean Keith	Ron Falvey
29	Alcorn	Oakland Baptist Church, Corinth	Matt Buckles	David Hamilton
29	Panola	Calvary Baptist Church, Batesville	David Wills	Ben Atkinson

## Clearing up intention

Editor:

I have recently become aware that there may be some misconceptions about the status of the Stewardship Commission's "Together We Build" program.

When bylaw changes are adopted at the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention to implement the Program and Structure Study Committee report, capital fund raising will be transferred to the Sunday School Board, not to the Executive Committee.

Therefore, I am naturally concerned about any perceptions that might affect confidence in this important ministry.

I wanted to let you know our intentions.

When the changes are adopted by the SBC, "Together We Build" will become part of our Church Growth Group.

We will work closely with the Stewardship Commission and with state convention stewardship leaders to assure a smooth transition.

We see this as a vital service and ministry. We intend to maintain TWB at the same high level. We will seek ways to enhance its effectiveness.

We do not want any momentum to be lost in the transition. After action at the 1996 SBC, when the bylaw changes are approved, we anticipate building stronger relationships with state stewardship directors.

We will welcome your input and suggestions as we undertake this process.

Jimmy T. Draper Jr., president  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
Nashville

## Grateful for prayers

Editor:

On Dec. 28, 1995, our 23-month-old grandson, Trey Gerrell, underwent open heart surgery at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, to enlarge one of his heart valves.

The surgery was a success, and Trey is home doing great.

Betty and I are so thankful to our Lord for his bountiful blessings in this area.

This has proven to be one of the greatest challenges we have faced, but the Lord continues to give grace and show himself mighty on our behalf.

Thank you, our Baptist family, for standing with us in prayer.

We have received numerous letters and calls from across the Southern Baptist Convention expressing concern. Only eternity will reveal the results of your prayers.

Again, we deeply appreciate every prayer you have uttered for us.

P.J. Scott  
Olive Branch

**Editor's note:** Scott was formerly president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and is pastor of First Church, Olive Branch.

## Just for the Record



**GAs, RAs, Acteens, and Challengers of Zion Church, Pontotoc County,** earned \$247.30 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by making and selling Christmas ornaments. They also took ornaments to Graceland Nursing Home in Pontotoc. Pictured, front row, are MaKinsey Palmer, Kristen Cox, Christina Hoing; middle row, David Williams, Andy McGregor, Brandon Williams, Michael Cox, Michael Gentry, Adam Gentry; back row, Matt Clingan, Kevin Hoing, Beth Williams, and Emily Snipps.



**The youths of Wess Chapel** participating in the Christmas musical pictured from left, back row, were Shane Ward, Heath Roberson, Brian King, Eric Gregory, Shannon Hunt, Jane Mayo, Kris Lee, Sean Partridge; middle row, Kava Hunt, Clay Chancellor, Sara Sanford, Tabitha Adkins, Melinda Henry; front row, Amber Richardson, Cassie Eaves, Sarah Crowson, Rainy Hatcher, Tracy McCracken, Jody Kelley, and Heather Gregory. Not pictured are Bart Chancellor and Josh Kelley.

(601) 939-4476.

**The Missions Extension and Associational Administration** of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is in need of pulpit furniture, chair, and communion table. Call Richard Brogan, (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.

**Acappella** will be in concert at **First Church, Pearl**, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. For more information, call



**Morgan City Church, Morgan City**, recently dedicated a plaque honoring all past and present deacons. The plaque was dedicated to the glory of God and the memory of **W. George Ingram**, former deacon. Members of the Ingram family present for the dedication were Nettie Ingram, Teresa Ingram-Lloyd, George Ingram Jr., Nettie Lynn Burchfield. Robert Ingram, son of Leuvitown, Pa., was unable to attend.

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**The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators (NFBE)** needs 5,000 Christian young people in grades 7-12 and 2,000 college students to serve as "Correspondents" or pen-pals with Chinese students who want to practice their English skills. Students who volunteer to serve in this missions project may expect to receive a letter from a Chinese student (or letters from up to three Chinese students) some time during this school year. All correspondence should be directed to John T. Carter, National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, Samford University Box 2305, Birmingham, AL 35229 or phone (205) 822-4106.

**Handsboro Church, Gulfport**, will have a conference on Building the House of Prayer, Feb. 4-7. The speaker will be Sam Wolfe from Huntsville, Ala. He is a former pastor and evangelist. The times are Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday. H. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

**Mississippi College** will host the 1996 Mississippi Academic Decathlon, Feb. 9 and 10. The Mississippi event, whose winner will go on to compete in national competition, is now in its 11th year. "The main strength of the Decathlon is that it includes A, B, and C students rather than just including the academic elite," said Lorraine Caldwell with the Office of Counseling and Career Development. "It is gratifying to see the C student become as excited about academics as the A student." For more information, call Mississippi College at (601) 925-3354.

**A Student Missions Conference** will be held March 1-3 at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. For additional information contact Lynda Dyck at (817) 923-1921 ext. 7502.

**Coffee Baptist Vineyard** in southeastern Alabama is seeking a



**Mt. Zion Church, Lincoln Association**, recently held a GA Recognition Service. GAs receiving badges, pictured from left, front row, are Summer Easterling, Heather Carmical, Laci Porch; second row, Lauren Smith, Cecelia Neese, Mattie Presley; third row, Anna Smith, Brittany Smith, Mary Porch, Condy Moak; fourth row, Erin Hart, Samantha Smith, Leah Smith, and Katie Goldman. GAs receiving pendants for completing all six Mission Adventures were Erin Hart, Samantha Smith, and Leah Smith.

couple to serve as directors for rental camp owned by Coffee Association. Duties are scheduling, administrative, promotion, overseeing workers, and general maintenance. Contact Joel Jackson, P O Box 127, New Brockton, AL 36351-0127, or call (334) 894-6411.

**A workshop sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission** is scheduled to be held Feb. 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Learning Resources Center at Mississippi College. The workshop is directed by Richard Ethridge, current president of the Historical Commission. Edward McMillan, executive secretary of the Commission, reports that "Dr. Ethridge has developed an extremely helpful program for churches that will be celebrating

anniversaries." For more information, call (601) 925-3434.

**Grandview Church, Pearl**, will hold a luncheon to honor its senior citizens on Feb. 11. Wade Chappell is pastor.

**Agricola Church, George Association**, will have dedication services for its new church building on Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. Don M. Boone is pastor.

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### Women's Conference -- February 23-24

## "Gaining Strength"



**"Gaining Strength"** is a conference designed to aid women emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically, and to prepare them to handle the struggles and challenges of everyday life.

**Guest Speaker: Jenny Broughton**  
**Seminar Speakers: Sue Dockery, Lanelle Picarella, Marilyn Tyler, Gale Wolf, and Elisa McCurley**

**Cost: \$20 (includes two meals and seminars)**

### Broadmoor Baptist Church

787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, MS 39206 -- (601) 366-8433  
Call the church office for reservations by Wednesday, February 7.

# Staff Changes

First Church, Crystal Springs, has called **Steve Morcom**, a native of Vernon, Texas, as minister of education. He received his master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Morcom December.



**Shubuta Church**, Clarke Association, has called **James Perry Manning** as pastor effective Jan. 7.

**New Hope Church**, Gulfport, has called **Jim Beland** as minister of music effective Jan. 14. He is a native of Long Beach. Durwood Broughton is pastor.

**Arrowood Church**, Meridian, called **Chris Atkinson** as pastor. He attended Clarke College and is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served at Calvary

Church, Meridian, as youth minister and Lee Hills Church in Louisiana as pastor.

**Gooden Lake**, Belzoni, has called **Robert Britt**, Crystal Springs, as pastor effective Jan. 28.

**Calvary Church**, Petal, announces the retirement of **Phil T. Harris**. He has been in the ministry for 43 years serving in Japan, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. A special service will be held on Jan. 28 to honor Harris and his wife for their 11 years of service at Calvary Church.

**Antioch Church**, Greene Association, has called **Jerry Corley** as pastor. He is a student at William Carey College.

**Magee's Creek Church**, Jayess, has called **Justin W. Morgan** as pastor effective Feb. 4. A native of Marion County, he received his education at New Orleans Seminary and Christian Bible College and Seminary. His previous place of service was in Toledo, Oregon.

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Thursday, February 1, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the News

**LOUISVILLE**, Ky — **Timothy K. Beougher** has been named associate professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., effective June 1. Beougher has been assistant professor of evangelism at the Wheaton College Graduate School since 1990 and has served the Illinois college as associate director of its Billy Graham Institute of Evangelism. At Southern, he will be associate dean for North American ministries in the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

**Jimmy Turner**, adjunct professor of guitar at Mississippi College, will perform classical guitar works in a recital at 8:15 p.m. Feb. 8 in Aven Hall. A native of Jackson, Turner holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Mississippi. For more information, contact the Mississippi College Department of Music at (601) 925-3440.

**Randy A. Futral** was ordained into the ministry of music by **Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian**, on Jan. 7. He and his family have been members of Mt. Gilead Church since October 1995 at which time he was called as music director.



New deacons at Evansville Church, Northwest Association, (from left) are **Darrell Kelly**, **Dan Freeman**, **Butch Lance**, and **Jim Ragon**. **Bernette Fielder** is pastor.

**RICHMOND**, Va. (BP) — **Missionary Bill Cashion**, a church planter known for his innovative baseball ministry in Venezuela, has been tapped to lead the Foreign Mission Board's human needs program. Cashion, 47, begins his new role Feb. 7. He currently is pastor of First Church, Marietta, S.C., while on leave from his assignment in

Venezuela. During their 10 years in Venezuela, Cashion and his wife Kathy started churches through sports and medical projects. During language school in Costa Rica, they also worked in human needs ministries among Nicaraguans living in refugee camps there.

**Mississippi College** has named **John McCall**, director of Church Relations, as acting head of the College's Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy. McCall, who held the post from 1986-92, will serve in the position while a search is conducted for a permanent head.



**Gussie Coker** was honored for 54 years of continuous service as church clerk, treasurer, financial secretary, and Sunday School teacher at Toomsuba Church, Toomsuba. Pictured with Coker is Dennis Morgan (left), chairman of deacons, and Ben James (right), pastor.

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## Uniform Running from God



By David Mitchell  
**Jonah 1, 2**

When we mess up our lives, it's so good to know that God doesn't feel that we are replaceable — that it's easier to move on to another sinner than to "clean us up." The story of Jonah tells the account of one of God's servants who found himself in a mess because of his running from God.

**God's call (1:1-2).** Jonah was to go to Nineveh and "cry against it." He knew exactly where he was supposed to go and what he was supposed to do. God did not send him on a mission with instructions given on a "need to know basis." God's directives for Jonah were explicit. When God's call comes in our lives, it comes with clarity and precision. God gives direct marching orders for those who are willing to follow his leadership. The story of Jonah helps us understand that, at times, the things that God may ask us to do may seem puzzling and difficult. However, if they are truly his desires for our lives, he will make our efforts successful.

**Jonah's response (1:3-4).** Jonah felt that he had a monopoly on God. His heart was cold, and he could care less about the Ninevites. In fact, his heart's desire was to see God punish them. Before we judge Jonah, however, we may find ourselves with this same attitude. When we see others living in open sin, or those who refuse to live by God's standards, we may feel that God should punish them. Instead, our desire should be for God's reconciling love to come into their lives rather than for us to have the satisfaction of seeing God punish their sin.

**God's reaction (1:10-15).** Verse 4 helps us understand beyond any doubt that God was the Creator of the storm that arose on the sea. In our lives there is a storm that occurs each time we disobey God. It is God's Holy Spirit who brings the elements of the storm into our lives — the rain, the wind, and the lightning which all let us know we have disobeyed God. Jonah displays the character that is all too often present today. He said, "I choose to die rather than to obey God." Verses 10-12 helps us understand that we are responsible for the consequences of running from God.

**Jonah's situation (1:7-2:1,10).** Chapter one, verse 17 presents one of the best-known stories in all the Bible. God appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and the Bible says, "Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights." Many have said that the book of Jonah is allegory rather than history. However, according to 2 Kings 14:25, Jonah was a real person and an accredited prophet. In Matthew 12:39-41, Jesus also treated Jonah's experience in the belly of the fish as factual, and the book reads like straightforward historical account. In the presence of God's punishment, Jonah found himself feeling separated from God. The language of Chapter 2 may identify the feelings that we have when we have disobeyed God. In verse 3, "he was cast into the deep, into the heart of the sea, he was engulfed." In verse 4, he was expelled from God's sight. In verse 5, he was encompassed by water and had weeds wrapped around his head. Verse 6 finds Jonah at the roots of the mountains and in the pit, and in verse 7 — with very little hope of life left — Jonah presents himself as fainting away.

Many times when we disobey God and he brings corrective action into our lives, we may feel that we are going down for the third time. It is at this point, when we feel we have nowhere else to turn, no friends to ask for help, no book to read, that all we can do is cry out to God for help. Turning to God and asking for help, Jonah found himself being delivered from the belly of the great fish on the beach. When we ask God for forgiveness, God removes the sin and any eternal consequences. At times the evidence of our turning from God is still present in our lives. For instance, if we have damaged our bodies with alcohol or tobacco, God will forgive the sin against the body, but the physical consequences are still present. It is these lingering evidences of sin that may cause us to find it difficult to forgive or forget our sin as God does.

We may find greater satisfaction in our relationship to God if we would remind ourselves that God not only forgives, but God also forgets. It is from this point of forgiveness that God can once again use us.

**Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.**

## Bible Book The glorious gospel



By Clayton Littlejohn  
**1 Timothy 1**

The books of Timothy and Titus are known as the "pastoral epistles." They give guidelines for ministers and reveal truths of what a church is supposed to be and how it is to function.

Timothy was a young pastor (4:12) who was placed in a pastoral position of a church with many severe problems. He had to oppose false teachings, establish true leaders, evangelize the lost, meet the needs of widows and orphans, and preach the Word. He was under opposition from many in the church, and at the same time suffered from physical problems (5:23).

Paul's greeting in verses 1 and 2 reveals his authority as apostle of Christ, and gives credibility to Timothy as a pastor and true child of God. Both would be needed to combat the opposing forces in the church at Ephesus.

**A warning against false teaching (vv. 3-7).** Timothy, whose name means "one who honors God," was a half-Jew, half-Gentile believer of good report from Lystra (Acts 16:1-4). His faith in Christ, love for the brethren, and willingness to serve was so like Paul's that Paul called him his "son in the faith" (v. 2).

Ephesus was a seaport city on the west coast of Asia Minor. It was home to one of the seven Great Wonders of the World, the Temple of Artemis (Diana), the fertility goddess. Macedonia was in North Greece, and was home to Philippi, Thessalonica, and Bera. Each of these were places where Paul and Timothy had established churches and enjoyed warm fellowship and also trouble.

Timothy was told to "instruct" (command) certain men to quit teaching false doctrines (v. 3) such as "fables and endless genealogies" (v. 4). "Fables" translates as "myths." Ephesus was a haven of Greek mythology. No one can be saved by a myth, nor can a church function properly by myths.

The "endless genealogies" spoken about here were false teachings that salvation was genetic. Jesus destroyed this myth in John 8:33-44, and revealed Satan as the source of this lie. Fables and endless genealogies led to "vain jangling" (1:6), which is nothing but worthless debate and cannot save. To make it look biblical, the false teachers wanted also to be "teachers of the law" (v. 7), teaching salvation by works. Fables, genealogy, and the law can never produce "love, a good conscience, and true faith" (v. 5). Only grace, mercy, and peace can do that (v. 2). All else is in vain (1 Cor. 13).

**The purpose of the law (vv. 8-11).** The law is good, but it cannot save (Romans 3:20); that would be salvation by works. Salvation is "by grace, through faith, not of works lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is not what man can do, but what Jesus has done (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 2:9). The law is good because it points out man's sin and brings us to Christ (Gal. 3:24).

In Exodus 20:3-17, we are given the Ten Commandments that reveal how man is to act toward God and his fellow man. Notice in verses 9-10, all 10 are broken. The law is necessary because it reveals our sin and shows that we need a Saviour, which is the "glorious gospel" (v. 11).

**A testimony to God's grace (vv. 12-17).** Paul began his testimony with thankfulness to Jesus for "enabling him, and putting him in the ministry" (v. 12). It is such a joy and privilege to be a pastor; that's what Paul is saying.

Paul then described his life before he found Christ (vv. 13-14). By mercy, God didn't give Paul what he deserved (death and hell), but by grace God gave Paul what he didn't deserve (eternal life with him). Paul did not deny responsibility for his sin when he said he acted "ignorantly in unbelief." The "blasphemy, persecutions, and injurious things" he did were what he thought was right. His sin was in ignorance. Paul was responsible for his sins and even describes himself as the "chief" of sinners (v. 15). But when he faced Christ, he believed and was gloriously saved.

This is the "glorious gospel" that can change the worst of sinners. We should never give up on someone, saying, "There is no hope for them." Paul's testimony illustrates that God's grace and mercy is available to anyone. We can share the glorious gospel by opposing false teachings and expressing gratitude for God's grace.

**Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.**

## Life and Work Living with integrity



By Linda Donnell  
**Matthew 5**

D. James Kennedy, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Coral Ridge, Fla., suggests that Americans are facing a "crisis of character," which, unless changed, will undermine our entire society. It has also been said that the "quality" of church people today is at a frightening low: "We are many, but not much." Obviously we have strayed from the call of integrity that Jesus issued to his followers. How can Christians demonstrate integrity as they are confronted with life's situations?

**Integrity in sexual conduct (vv. 27-30).** Jesus' first call to integrity was in sexual conduct as he reminded the followers of God's law of purity (Ex. 20:14) and then explained its full meaning. Sexual immorality is not merely a matter of outward conduct. It begins in the desires of the heart. "Looking with lust" is not identical to the deed, but spiritually speaking, the two are equivalent. An appetite usually leads to action. If "looking" is sinful, then also those who dress and conduct themselves in such a manner as to encourage the lustful look are no less guilty.

Jesus' prescription for preventing fleshly lusts is rather drastic: "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out... and if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off..." (vv. 29-30). Certainly, he was not advocating a literal surgery, but he knew that the power and lure of sins of the flesh require strong measures of combat. To resist the very beginnings of sin, to stay out of situations which might lead to sin, and to depend on God's grace daily can be as effective as "pulling out an eye" or "cutting off a hand." "The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life" (Gal. 6:8).

**Integrity in marriage relationships (vv. 31-32).** Divorce rates continue to rise in our society with more than half of marriages ending in broken homes. We even see divorce invading the homes of Christian leaders. It has been jokingly said that couples of today are married for better or for worse, but not for long. Because of this, some may see this Scripture as outdated and irrelevant today. However, it is precisely because of the lax view of the marriage covenant taken by our society and all the resulting problems that we should take a fresh look at Jesus' words regarding divorce.

Divorce is a complex and controversial subject, but the Bible is quite clear in regard to integrity in the marriage relationship. While the Pharisees were preoccupied with using the law to break the bond of marriage, Jesus' emphasis was more on the permanence of the union. Since the "two shall become as one" in marriage, they should not be easily separated (v. 32). If everyone entered into the covenant with this attitude, they might be more willing to work harder at preserving it. It has been said, "The answer to easy divorce is hard marriage."

We should be careful not to look at divorce with legalistic eyes. Jesus did not give a law in this regard, rather a principle was offered for the good of man and society. The principle is good, but it must be recognized that life is not always a tidy business — things happen, people fail. Consequently, each individual circumstance must be viewed with the eyes of love. Overall, in all his teaching, Jesus preached against legalism and for love. For those involved in broken marriages, the question becomes how to maintain integrity when the relationship falls apart.

**Integrity in speech (vv. 33-37).** Another area where the Pharisees tried to use the law for their personal benefit was in regard to oaths. Jesus called his disciples to be true to their word. Kingdom people do not need "crutches" to get people to believe them. "Simply let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no'" (v. 37). All of our promises, whether they be marriage vows or mere conversation, will be held sacred if we remember that they are made in the presence of God.

Can you be trusted? Is your word as good as law? Is your character conformed to the world or to the high call of Jesus Christ?

**Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.**

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village



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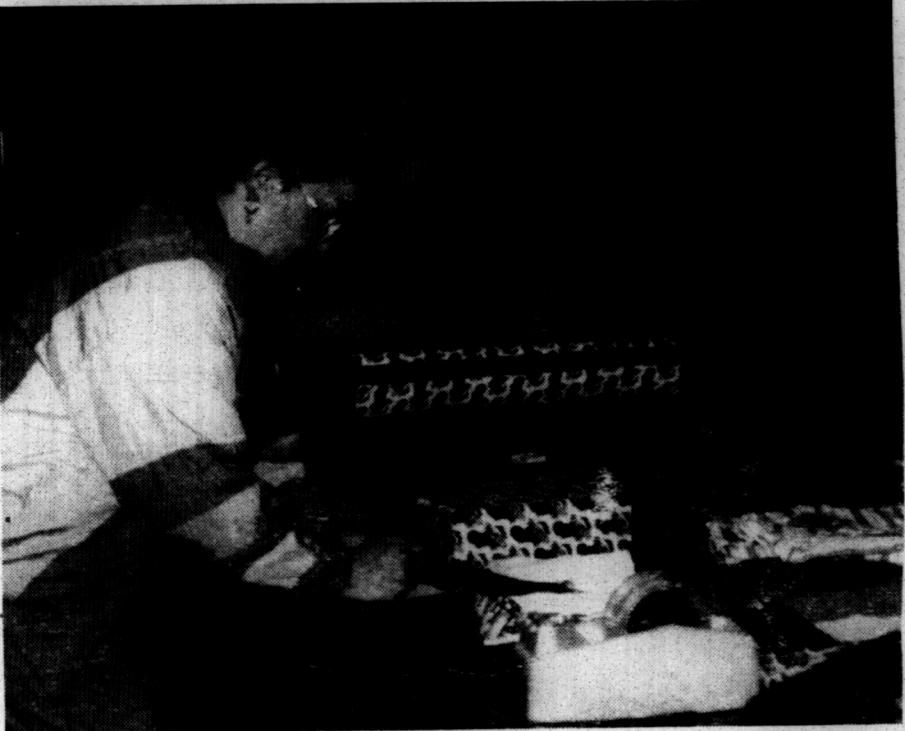
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(to be continued)



**Claire Nowlin**, Director of Social Services, and her staff are breathing a sigh of relief after wrapping hundreds of Christmas gifts for BCV children. Is it any wonder they are considered "professional wrappers" after such extensive training and experience?



**Robert Stewart** accepts gifts and a happy bag from a Southern Farm Bureau representative. Southern Farm Bureau continued their annual tradition of providing a party with gifts and treats for all children in Emergency Care and Extended Care on our India Nunnery Campus. Thank you again, Farm Bureau, for your hard work and generous spirit. Special thanks to Kathy Bearden for organizing this special treat for us again this year.

# capsules

**TEAR-GAS ATTACK FAILS TO HALT FILM: TOULOUSE, France (ABP)** — A tear-gas-bomb attack on a Baptist church in Toulouse, France, injured no one and failed to disrupt a showing of the film, *The Hiding Place*. The European Baptist Press Service said extremist "skinheads" were responsible for the November attack on the Baptist Mission of Toulouse. The attack might have been prompted by publicity about the film, which tells the story of a faithful Christian who suffered and died at the hand of Nazis during World War II. A promotional leaflet for the film carried a swastika emblem superimposed over a map of France. Baptist leaders speculated the attackers may have been angered by the negative depiction of the Nazi symbol, which is still used by right-wing extremists in Europe and elsewhere. The pastor of the mission congregation, British missionary Robert Atkins, said the film was shown after the bombing. No one was injured, but spectators complained of burning eyes throughout the evening, he said.

**1995 TOTAL ANNIE ARMSTRONG REACHES RECORD \$38.9 MILLION: ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)** — Southern Baptists gave an unprecedented \$38.9 million for home missions through the 1995 *Annies Armstrong Easter Offering*, according to the Home Mission Board's chief financial officer. The year-end total came to \$38,908,339, said Ernest Kelley. That represents a 4.66% increase compared to the 1994 offering of \$37,177,516. Home missions supporters welcomed the news. "I'm delighted that we have again this year set an all-time record in Annie Armstrong income," said HMB President Larry L. Lewis. "And I would express on behalf of all our staff and nearly 5,000 home missions personnel our deep appreciation to Southern Baptists for their strong support for home missions."

**HOUSE HONORS GRAHAMS WITH CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL: WASHINGTON (ABP)** — The U.S. House of Representatives voted Jan. 23 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth. Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C., was primary sponsor of a bill commissioning the honor. The measure passed the House 403-2. Congressmen noted Graham's preaching ministry — which has reached more than 100 million people in person and 2 billion people through television — as well as his record of concern for the poor. Democrats and Republicans alike praised the Grahams for their work and committed service to the country. They noted Graham has been a spiritual adviser and confidant to 10 presidents. "It is rare, in this day and age, to find such dedication to beliefs," said Rep. Fred Heineman, R-N.C. Heineman said he once attended a Billy Graham crusade and "the vestiges of that experience are still with me." A congressional spokesman said fewer than 100 such awards have been given. Among previous recipients were George Washington, Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers and Winston Churchill. Reps. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., and Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., opposed the measure. Slaughter later said she voted against the measure by mistake. A spokeswoman for Schroeder said she has a policy of voting against all commemorative bills that honor living people because such awards could be used for political pandering.

**AIR FORCE RESERVES SEEKS MORE CHAPLAINS: ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)** — The Air Force Reserves needs 25 to 40 new chaplains following many unexpected retirements, said Pat Davis, Home Mission Board interim director of military chaplaincy. The number of days reserve chaplains serve per month is negotiable, Davis said. For information on becoming an Air Force Reserve chaplain, contact the HMB chaplaincy division at 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174. Telephone (770) 410-6490.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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LDG WTZSG TP YB UGQTWGH! UGDTQH, DG  
STYGLD QGNKZAE VKTA LDG YTVALNZAC,  
CRZKKZAE VKTA LDG DZQQC.

CTAE TP CTQTYTA LMT: GZEGL

This week's clue: T equals O.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One: Eight.

## Blood brothers —

# Rolling Fork teen survives sickle cell anemia aided by Brandon man

By Clay Harden

**PEARL (BP)** — When Clarence Jermaine Carter met **Robin Nichols** for the first time, Carter was nudged to give a hug to his new acquaintance.

Carter, a slender and shy teenager, went from an expression of relief at Nichols' verbal respite — "He doesn't look like the hugging kind," Nichols said — to doubling over in laughter when someone quipped, "You can't say he is not your type."

Carter, a 19-year-old African American, and Nichols, a 46-year-old white man, are near perfect matches.

That is why Nichols, an associate in the **Mississippi Baptist Convention's Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department**, has donated his blood exclusively to Carter for almost 10 years.

Carter has suffered with sickle cell anemia since he was 3 years old. It is a disease which keeps his red blood cells from carrying the needed oxygen and nutrients his body needs.

He had a stroke at age 3 which paralyzed his left side. Without periodic transfusions, Carter could suffer a fatal stroke.

The two met for the first time at the new Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) drawing station at Cross Park Plaza shopping center in Pearl, hours after the facility celebrated its grand opening last November.

"I don't have the words to say how it feels to meet (Nichols)," said Carter, of Rolling Fork, who has come far enough in his rehabilitation from the stroke as a toddler to perform all normal body functions. "I didn't know about him, that one man was giving me all this blood. I didn't know who he was until today."

Nichols, of Brandon, knew only he was giving the blood to Clarence Carter, a teen who lived out of the Jackson metro area. He has to give Carter's name every time he donates blood.

"I had thought it would be nice to be able to meet the young man," Nichols said. "It gives me a great sense of satisfaction to know I can make a contribution to greatly improve the quality of life for another human being."

Carter knows when it is time for a transfusion. His body begins



**Robin Nichols** (right) and Clarence Carter met for the first time in Pearl last November. For the last 10 years, Nichols has donated blood exclusively to Carter, who suffers from sickle cell anemia. (Clarion-Ledger photo by Clay Harden)

to ache all over.

"I soak in a hot tub, take plenty of Tylenol and go to sleep," said Carter, slender and soft spoken. "Then I get a transfusion the next day."

Carter has had more than 33 gallons of transfusions over 16 years with a significant amount from Nichols.

He began receiving Nichols' blood at age 10 when it became necessary to receive blood which was a close match.

Carter developed a blood group factor shared by only 2% of the population, negative to the "little e" factor.

"As Clarence got older, his body developed these antibodies so it became imperative he have an exact match," said Ben Woods, administrator of corporate services and human resources for MBS. "It is hard to find because so few people have those traits, and many of those who do are African Americans who may have sickle cell disease or sickle cell traits."

"One in 400 blacks has sickle cell, and one in 10 has the trait. That is why we are constantly trying to find black donors."

As Carter gets older and grows larger, he needs more blood. He also receives blood from a handful

of other donors, but none has donated as long as Nichols.

The blood from other donors is frozen first, but when he gets blood from Nichols, it is fresh out of the refrigerator.

"Clarence is most accustomed to Mr. Nichols' blood, so we give it to him fresh," said Glendora Williams, MBS manager of donor services. "It does him the most good."

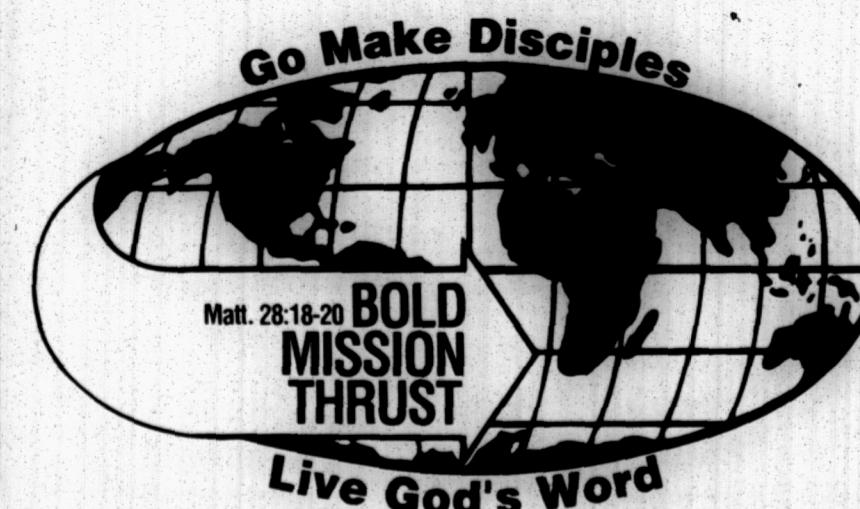
Carter, who once needed monthly transfusions, can go two months without new blood.

"I feel pretty good most of the time," Carter said. "I just have to stay out of the sun and take liquids. I can't get dehydrated."

Nichols punctuated his first face-to-face meeting with his old friend by giving blood as Carter watched.

The beaming smile Carter gave Nichols as he left for home was thanks enough.

**Harden is a reporter for The Jackson Clarion-Ledger.**



**Baptist Record**

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